

Post-Construction Processes for Stormwater Quality Protection

Placer County

Flyer dated 11/19/04

The Stormwater Quality Improvement Program

As of August 31, 2004, the unincorporated areas of Placer County west of Colfax and Foresthill are subject to the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)



Municipal phase II regulations for stormwater quality protection. These Federal and State regulations require additional controls on potential sources of pollution from construction sites, and actions to prevent long term non-point source pollution from developed sites

through appropriate design. Placer County will implement these and other means to improve stormwater quality, such as creating a public education campaign, enforcing a prohibition against illicit discharges, and evaluating and possibly upgrading County facilities and practices to prevent pollution.

“Post-Construction” refers to those features of a development project that are designed to prevent water pollution in the long term—water quality basins, storage enclosures for dumpsters and toxic materials, reduced imperviousness, and grassed swales, etc.

Non-point source pollution is a general term meaning pollution that is not collected and discharged through pipes, or that is not associated with an indus-

trial process.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, or SWPPP, is the term that is generally used to refer to a construction site water quality control plan.

A Stormwater Management Plan, or SWMP, is the County’s overall plan for stormwater quality protection.

BMPs, or Best Management Practices, is a term used to describe an activity, technique, structure, or device that is intended to improve stormwater quality.

This information sheet describes the upcoming changes to Placer County’s post-construction processes in western Placer County to meet these new requirements. Watch for future updates.

A proposed stormwater ordinance will:

- Prohibit non-stormwater (anything besides rainwater) discharges to stormdrains
- Control construction site wastes
- Prohibit sediment discharge from construction sites
- Require that construction sites apply and maintain BMPs. Proposed construction changes are described in a separate flyer.
- Require that post-construction BMPs be installed on new and re-development projects.
- Develop enforcement authority

Post-Construction Stormwater Quality

Project applicants will now be expected to design projects with suitable long term pollution controls from the beginning, rather than waiting until the improvement plan check has begun to propose solutions. This is necessary because many properly de-

signed water quality BMPs will alter a project’s design, such as when room for water quality basins or vegetated swales is needed. Project proponents will need to provide a ‘BMP Plan’ at environmental review to lay out the proposed solutions. The



BMP plan will need to identify probable sources of pollution, means of source control to prevent such pollution, and in the event that source control is not sufficient, propose treatment controls. Source control and prevention, including management

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techniques and education, must be emphasized over treatment controls which attempt to remove contaminants once the runoff is already polluted. The County's SWMP requires commitment to adequate long term maintenance of BMPs installed along with development. As part of the BMP plan applicants must identify necessary maintenance of any proposed BMPs, including long term funding and a mechanism to transfer maintenance responsibility when a property is sold. Public Works staff will develop the project conditions of approval

based upon the applicant's BMP plan content. Construction plans and permits approved by the County will have to include adequate detail to insure proper construction, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the BMPs for the project. The NPDES program requires the County to develop additional authority, besides that in the Grading Ordinance, to control pollution from new development and existing sources. This is proposed through a new stormwater ordinance to be presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration in late 2004 or

early 2005.

See front page for a summary of ordinance points.



Additional Post-Construction Design Requirements



In addition to providing adequate stormwater quality BMPs, the County's NPDES permit applies certain specific design requirements to discretionary and redevelopment projects that meet these requirements:

- ◆ Single Family Hillside Residences
- ◆ 100,000 ft² Commercial Developments
- ◆ Automotive Repair Shops
- ◆ Retail Gasoline Outlets
- ◆ Restaurants
- ◆ 10+ Unit Residential Subdivision
- ◆ Parking Lots of 5,000 ft² or More

◆ Parking Lots With 25 or More Spaces

The complete design requirements are available in 'Attachment 4' of the Small Municipal General Permit (available at the website address below), and include such things as use of low impact development principles, proper design of trash enclosures, material storage areas, and automotive facilities, plus operation and maintenance requirements.

Resources for More Information

Placer County

For more information about the stormwater quality program, call the Department of Public Works: (530) 889.7500

Stormwater quality program website: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtrmgt/strmwtr.htm>

Placer County Stormwater Management Plan: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/works/strmwtrmgt/StormwaterManagementPlan-Final-0312004.pdf>

California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)

CASQA Best Management Practices Handbooks: <http://www.cabmphandbooks.com>

State Water Resources Control Board

Small Municipal General Permit: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/phase_ii_municipal.html

Low Impact Development for Water Pollution Prevention

Tom Richman's 'Start at the Source' Manual: http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/basmaa_satsm.htm

LID Puget Sound program: <http://www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/LID.htm>

Urban Design Tools: <http://www.lid-stormwater.net/>

'Using Site Design Techniques to Meet Development Standards for Stormwater Quality' A Companion Document to Start at the Source, May 2003: http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/pdfs/0203/c3_related_info/startatthesource/using_sas.pdf